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HISTORY

ever previously granted in times of peace to enable William to support his Allies and to 'procure either a lasting peace, or to preserve the liberties of Europe by a necessary war'. The defiant policy of Louis XIV forced England into a necessary war'. On the night of February 5-6, 1701, French troops occupied the fortresses in the Netherlands which were garrisoned by the Dutch in accordance with the treaty of Ryswick. The demand that the English and Dutch should be guaranteed the same commercial rights in Spain they had enjoyed under the late king was refused. All compensation was denied to the Emperor. Finally, on the death of James II, his son was recognised at the French court as king of England.

The insolence of Louis provoked a storm of indignation in England. 'All over the kingdom/ says Macaulay, ⁶ corporations, grand juries, meetings of magistrates, meetings of freeholders, were passing resolutions breathing affection to William, and defiance to Lewis/ ² William dissolved Parliament and obtained a majority eager for war. In his speech on December 31, he summed up the aggressions of France.

By the French King's placing his grandson on the throne of Spain he is in a condition to oppress the rest of Europe, unless speedy and effectual measures be taken. Under this pretence, he is become the real master of the

whole Spanish
 monarchy . . . and by that means has
 surrounded his
 neighbours in such a manner, that tho' the
 name of peace
 may be said to continue, yet they are put to
 the expence and
 inconveniencies of a war. This must affect
 England, in the
 nearest and most sensible manner, in respect
 to our trade,
 which will soon become precarious in all the
 valuable
 branches of it; in respect to our peace and
 safety at home,
 which we cannot hope should long
 continue ; and in re-

¹ June 24, 1701. Ibid. p. 1322. ² VI, 2991-2 (xxv).